

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A piston and connecting rod assembly for use with an internal combustion engine, said assembly comprising:

a piston adapted for reciprocal movement within a cylinder of the internal combustion engine, said piston having a body including a pin bore formed therein;

a connecting rod adapted to interconnect said piston and a crankshaft so as to translate the reciprocal movement of the piston into rotational movement of the crankshaft, said connecting rod having first and second ends with at least one of said ends including a terminal end and a bore housing depending therefrom that tapers inwardly toward said terminal end, said bore housing having a bore extending therethrough and adapted to be aligned with said pin bore in said piston;

a pin adapted to be operatively received through said aligned pin bore in said piston and said bore extending through said end of said connecting rod, said pin including a pair of distal ends, a center portion formed therebetween and a profiled outer circumference that is substantially circular in cross-section with a larger diameter at said distal ends than at said center portion; and

said end of said connecting rod aligned with said piston pin bore including a phosphatized coating that is adapted to facilitate relative angular movement between said bore extending through said connecting rod and said outer circumference of said profiled piston pin thereby facilitating reciprocal motion of said piston relative to the cylinder of an internal combustion engine.

2. (Original) The assembly as set forth in claim 1 wherein said bore extending through said end of said connecting rod defines an inner circumference, said phosphatized coating being applied to said inner circumference so as to be interposed between said inner circumference and said pin.

3. (Original) The assembly as set forth in claim 1 wherein said phosphatized coating is bonded to said inner circumference of said bore extending through said end of said connecting rod.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Currently amended) The assembly as set forth in claim ~~[[4]]~~ 1 wherein said bore housing tapers inwardly toward said terminal end in a substantially trapezoidal manner.

6. (Currently amended) The assembly as set forth in claim ~~[[4]]~~ 1 wherein said bore housing tapers inwardly toward said terminal end in a substantially stepped manner.

7. (Original) The assembly as set forth in claim 1 wherein said pin includes a phosphatized coating about said profiled outer circumference.

8. (Original) The assembly as set forth in claim 1 wherein said pin bore in said piston body defines an inner circumference and a phosphatized coating interposed between said inner circumference and said pin.

9. (Currently amended) A piston and connecting rod assembly for use with an internal combustion engine, said assembly comprising:

a piston adapted for reciprocal movement within a cylinder of the internal combustion engine, said piston having a body including a pin bore formed therein;

a connecting rod adapted to interconnect said piston and a crankshaft so as to translate the reciprocal movement of the piston into rotational movement of the crankshaft, said connecting rod having first and second ends with at least one of said ends including a terminal end and a bore housing depending therefrom that tapers inwardly toward said terminal end, said bore housing having a bore extending therethrough and adapted to be aligned with said pin bore in said piston;

a pin adapted to be operatively received through said aligned pin bore in said piston and said bore extending through said end of said connecting rod, said pin including a pair of distal ends, a center portion formed therebetween and a profiled outer circumference that is substantially circular in cross-section with a larger diameter at said distal ends than at said center portion, said profiled outer circumference having a phosphatized coating bonded thereto, and

said end of said connecting rod aligned with said piston pin bore including a phosphatized coating that is adapted to facilitate relative angular movement between said bore extending through said connecting rod and said outer circumference of said profiled piston pin thereby facilitating reciprocal motion of said piston relative to the cylinder of an internal combustion engine.

10. (Original) The assembly as set forth in claim 9 wherein said bore extending through said end of said connecting rod defines an inner circumference, said phosphatized coating being interposed between said inner circumference of said bore and said outer circumference of said profiled piston pin.

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Currently amended) The assembly as set forth in claim [[11]] 9 wherein said bore housing tapers inwardly toward said terminal end in a substantially trapezoidal manner.

13. (Currently amended) The assembly as set forth in claim [[11]] 9 wherein said bore housing tapers inwardly toward said terminal end in a substantially stepped manner.

14. (Original) The assembly as set forth in claim 9 wherein said pin bore of said piston includes side relief channels along said inner circumference of said pin bore adapted to receive lubrication between said pin and said inner circumference of said pin bore.

15. (Original) The assembly as set forth in claim 9 wherein said pin bore of said piston body defines an inner circumference and a phosphatized coating between said inner circumference and said pin.